AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) In a decision support system, ~~an interface for~~ a system for accessing data ~~generating drill-through paths~~ comprising:

(a) means for generating drill-through paths, each of the drill-through path comprising at least one relationship, each relationship comprising a parameter mapping between a source and a target;

(b) means for accepting a request from a user ~~for data~~;

~~(b)~~ (c) means for translating the request into selection of a drill-through path ~~selected~~ from a plurality of possible drill-through paths between [[a]] the source and [[a]] the target;

~~(c) optional means for applying one or more parameters to the selected drill-through path to produce a valid drill-through path and to transfer the requested data over the valid drill-through path to an application; and~~

(d) means for requesting data using the selected drill-through path; and

[[(d)]] (e) display means for displaying the requested data to the user.

2. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method for obtaining data from one or more compatible data sources for use within applications implementing a decision support system, the method comprising the steps of:

~~in a business modeling tool before using a business intelligence application,~~

(a) modeling a mapping of data between a source and a target to produce one or more possible drill-through paths between the source and the target, each of the one or more possible drill-through paths ~~having one or~~

~~more parameter mappings~~ comprising at least one relationship, each relationship comprising a parameter mapping between the source and the target;

~~in a business intelligence application, using a report authoring tool,~~

(b) accepting a request from a user for data;

(c) translating the request into selection of a drill-through path ~~selected~~ from the possible drill-through paths between the source and the target;

(d) applying one or more parameters to the relationships in the selected drill-through path to produce a valid parameter mapping; ~~and~~

(e) transferring the requested data over the valid parameter mapping to an application; and

~~(e)~~ (f) displaying the requested data to a user.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the translating step includes the steps of:

(a) creating a list of parameters ~~(query items)~~ from the source and the target ~~reports~~;

(b) ~~for each source parameter,~~ determining, for each source parameter, [[a]] the parameter mapping that maps the parameter to the target; ~~and~~

(c) collecting ~~them~~ the parameter mappings as a single drill-through path;

~~(c)~~ if more than one parameter mapping points to the same target parameter then

(d) duplicating the parameter mapping one for each duplicate target path, thereby avoiding conflicts in forming [[the]] a filter ~~path; and (d) continuing to duplicate the parameter mappings~~ until all the parameter mappings for each drill-through path point to unique target parameters.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the source and the target are each of types which are selected from a group consisting of report and model.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the source is of a type selected from a group consisting of report and model and the target is a cube derived from a dimension map using a transformation tool.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the drill-through path is defined by Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the drill-through path is defined by an HTML FORM.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-based system for obtaining data from one or more compatible data sources for use within applications implementing a decision support system, the system comprising:

(a) means for modeling a mapping of data between a source and a target to produce one or more possible drill-through paths between the source and the target, each of the one or more possible drill-through paths ~~having one or more parameter mappings~~ comprising at least one relationship, each relationship comprising a parameter mapping between a source and a target;

(b) means for accepting a request from a user for data;

(c) means for translating the request into selection of a drill-through path ~~selected~~ from the possible drill-through paths between the source and the target;

(d) means for applying one or more parameters to the relationships in the selected drill-through path to produce a valid parameter mapping; ~~and to~~

(e) means for transferring ~~transfer~~ the requested data over the valid parameter mapping to [[the]] an application; and

[[(e)]] (f) display means for displaying the requested data to a user.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10 wherein the means for translating further comprises:

(a) means for creating a list of parameters ~~(query items)~~ from the source and the target ~~reports~~;

(b) means for determining, for each source parameter, [[a]] the parameter mapping that maps the parameter to the target;

(c) means for collecting the parameter mappings as a single drill-through path; and

[[(c)]] (d) means for duplicating the parameter mappings one for each duplicate target path to avoid conflicts in forming [[the]] a filter ~~path~~.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the source and the target are each of types which are selected from a group consisting of report and model.

13. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the source is of a type selected from a group consisting of report and model and the target is a cube derived from a dimension map using a transformation tool.

14. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the drill-through path is defined by a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

15. (Original) The system of claim 10 wherein the drill-through path is defined by an HTML FORM template.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, the code for obtaining data from one or more compatible data sources for use within applications implementing a decision support system, the code comprising[[,]]:

(a) code for modeling a mapping of data between a source and a target to produce one or more possible drill-through paths between the source and the target, each of the possible drill-through paths ~~having one or more parameters~~ containing at least one relationship, each relationship comprising a parameter mapping between the source and the target;

(b) code for accepting a request from a user for data;

(c) code for translating the request into selection of a drill-through path ~~selected~~ from the ~~one or more~~ possible drill-through paths between the source and the target ;

(d) code for applying one or more parameters to the relationships in the selected drill-through path to produce a valid parameter mapping; ~~and to~~

(e) code for transferring ~~transfer~~ the requested data over the valid parameter mapping to [[the]] an application; and

[[(e)]] (f) code for displaying the requested data to ~~the~~ a user.

18. (New) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

means for including one or more than one parameter placeholder in at least one of the relationships; and

means for replacing the one or more than one parameter placeholder in the relationships by user supplied parameters to produce one or more valid drill-through paths.

19. (New) The method of claim 2 comprising the step of including, within one or more of the possible drill-through paths, relationships having one or more parameters.

20. (New) The method of claim 2 comprising the step of including, within one or more of the possible drill-through paths, relationships wherein at least the source is defined using meta-data contained in a meta-data model.

21. (New) The system of claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

including one or more than one parameter placeholder in at least one of the relationships; and

replacing the one or more than one parameter placeholder in the relationships by user supplied parameters to produce one or more valid drill-through paths.

22 . (New) The computer based system of claim 10 further comprising:

means for including one or more than one parameter placeholder in at least one of the relationships; and

means for replacing the one or more than one parameter placeholder in the relationships by user supplied parameters to produce one or more valid drill-through paths.

23. (New) The computer executable software code of claim 17 further comprising:

code for including one or more than one parameter placeholder in at least one of the relationships; and

code for replacing the one or more than one parameter placeholder in the relationships by user supplied parameters to produce one or more valid drill-through paths.

24 . (New) The computer based method of claim 10 further comprising means for including, within one or more of the possible drill-through paths, relationships having one or more parameters.

25 . (New) The computer executable software code of claim 17 further comprising code for including, within one or more of the possible drill-through paths, relationships having one or more parameters.

26. (New) The computer based method of claim 10 further comprising means for including, within one or more drill-through paths, relationships wherein at least the source is defined using meta-data contained in a meta-data model.

27. (New) The computer executable software code of claim 17 further comprising code for including, within one or more of the possible drill-through paths, relationships wherein at least the source is defined using meta-data contained in a meta-data model.

28. (New) The system of claim 1 further comprising means for converting data during a drill-through operation.

29. (New) The system of claim 2 wherein at least one relationship includes a parameter mapping between the source and the target and data conversion functions.

30. (New) The computer based method of claim 10 further comprising means for converting data during a drill-through operation.

31. (New) The computer executable software code of claim 17 further comprising code for converting data during a drill-through operation.